

Re: Why do so many people hate or have trouble with math? Your input is needed!

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- *From:* "Arturo Magidin" <magidin@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
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The poster formerly known as Colleyville Alan wrote:

"Arturo Magidin" <magidin@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
[news:eg8vg2\\$1frl\\$1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:eg8vg2$1frl$1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

How could teachers and
students make math more
fun to learn?

Why does it have to be "fun"?

Because students who enjoy the subject will learn it more
thoroughly than
those who hope that once the final exam is over they never
have to see
another math book. If the subject is worth knowing, it is
worth knowing
it
thoroughly, not superficially.

The first question is: WHY do we teach mathematics in K-12?

Is it because "math is worth knowing", or is it because basic math
skills are as necessary as basic literate skills (reading and
writing)?

Basic math skills such as "addition, subtraction, multiplication, and
division of rational numbers" are taught well before the 12th grade, so
asking about K-12 lumps too many years into the "basic math" learning phase.
Around the 7th grade students are introduced to pre-algebra or algebra.
Many of them ask a similar question to the one you just asked "WHY do we
have to study this". They also provide a reason why they should not have to
study it: "I'll never use it".

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And they have no idea. Certainly if they don't know it then they'll never use it. Which, of course, is the same one might say about reading and writing. It is possible to go through life with a 3rd grade reading and writing level. You don't really "need to learn to read" any better than that. If they say "I'll never use" any better reading skill, are they right?